



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

For Immediate Release September 29, 2011
Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager
414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

SUPERVISORS RESPOND TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S 2012 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Milwaukee, WI – The following is a sampling of comments from County Supervisors in response to the County Executive's 2012 Recommended Budget proposal:

"It's been ten years since someone other than Scott Walker proposed a budget for Milwaukee County. The economy is struggling, and we will take a close look on the impact this budget could have on the community. I look forward to working with all the Supervisors and the County Executive as we move this budget process forward." – *Board Chairman Lee Holloway, 5th District*

"Over the course of the next month, my colleagues and I on the Finance & Audit Committee will conduct open and available meetings as we gather as much input from the public as possible. We have a big task ahead of us as we go through the budget line by line. People are suffering economically, and we will do our best to provide high-quality services at the lowest possible cost to our constituents." – *Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18th District, Chairman, Finance & Audit Committee.*

"I appreciate the County Executive's efforts and optimism in balancing this budget. But, the proof is in the pudding. I'm looking forward to deliberating this budget over the next several weeks to determine its effectiveness for District 2, and more importantly Milwaukee County as a whole." – *Supervisor Nikiya Q. Harris, 2nd District.*

"What a refreshing feeling to receive a budget from someone other than Scott Walker. However, we are still paying the price for his failed policies, including the \$29 million in cuts he has forced on us along with an empty toolbox. County Executive Abele's budget is honest and not based on fake revenues to address our structural deficit. I am pleased to see no transit route cuts or fare increases, but we must ensure proper contingencies in place of federal and state funds. Lastly, I am interested in reviewing the best practices offered for our Sheriff's Office. We can find efficiencies while preserving public safety in our neighborhoods." – *Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District.*

“The County Executive is to be credited with proposing a budget that does not raise the tax levy. The tools to achieve this are due, in part, to the changes in state law that permit employee fringe benefit costs savings. Taxpayers will need to be assured that this budget is built upon a solid foundation. Of concern is the assumption that the county will receive at least \$10 million in far from certain federal transit funding. It will be up to the County Executive to convince citizens that his cuts to vital public safety areas in paramedic and law enforcement services will not have a detrimental impact on vital services now serving as a model of intergovernmental cooperation.” – *Supervisor Joseph A. Rice, 6th District.*

“I’m looking forward to reading through the budget materials we received today. I congratulate the County Executive for his proposal and thoughtful work. We will look at all the details to help move Milwaukee County forward.” – *Supervisor Paul Cesarz, 9th District.*

I’m excited to work on my first budget as a County Supervisor. This is the big time. The County Executive made some very good points, and some others that I don’t agree with. I look forward to reviewing the budget and debating it with my colleagues over the next six weeks. It’s a long fight and a long process, so get your popcorn ready.” – *Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., 10th District.*

“It is very disappointing that this budget starts the decimation of the County’s nationally ranked paramedic service. When there is an outcry for greater cooperation among governmental units, and this paramedic program is a shining example of unity, we are going in the opposite direction. Pretty unbelievable.” – *Supervisor Mark Borkowski, 11th District.*

“The proposed changes to transit and paratransit could leave thousands more people out of work and without options for the future. This shows the need to find a permanent source of funding that is dedicated to transit. It was almost three years ago that the people of Milwaukee County called upon the state legislature to give us that funding. We need it now more than ever.” – *Supervisor Jason Haas, 14th District.*

“It’s great that the County Executive mentioned the importance of transitioning to more community-based mental health care. I’m very supportive of that. The County Board will continue to play a role in this as well, and it’s critical that we identify appropriate funding moving forward.” – *Supervisor Lynne De Bruin, 15th District.*

“Overall, I believe the County Executive's 2012 Budget provides a good balance for Milwaukee County. I am concerned about the increase in paratransit fees to our most vulnerable citizens and will be exploring additional ways to keep this valuable service as affordable to those citizens as possible, realizing they have limited resources and rely so heavily on this service to maintain their quality of life.” – *Supervisor Peggy Romo West, 12th District.*

“We hope that this year’s budget process is more cooperative than past years. We hope County Executive Abele continues to maintain his pledge to work with County Supervisors. I’m keeping a positive outlook on this budget process.” – *Supervisor John F. Weisban, Jr., 16th District.*

“As always, the devil is in the details. As a member of the Finance & Audit Committee, I will take a close look to see where the County Executive cut to fill the budget gap. In the coming days and weeks, I will review the data presented by the County Executive, as well as analysis from County Board staff, in making decisions for next year’s budget on behalf of my constituents.” – *Supervisor Jim “Luigi” Schmitt, 19th District.*

###